Gidman resurrects one at Burhill

By TREVOR LEDGER

WEIGHBRIDGE, Surrey, England — Golf course architect Simon Gidman of Oxfordshire has been handed the ponderous task of following in Harry Colt's footsteps at the Burhill Golf Club in Surrey.

Originally, Burhill consisted of two Colt courses. But, like so many others, golf gave way to farming in World War II and the lower course was plowed up, remaining so to the present day.

However, Burhill Estates has decided to resurrect the course. Construction is planned for this year with a scheduled opening in 2001.

The site borders the River Mole, a beautiful tributary of the Thames. The Gidman design incorporates this feature in two par-3s, which promise to be the signature holes of the new course.

The design criteria given to Gidman called for a complete contrast to the remaining Colt course, thus increasing the available options at the facility.

It is fortunate, perhaps, that this is not a restoration job as Gidman explained. "No evidence of Colt's layout remains, a combination of flooding and agriculture has removed any trace. There are no tees, greens or bunker shapes left."

Steel readies another in Portugal

By TREVOR LEDGER

LISBON, Portugal — Following the design of the Aroeira East Course in Portugal, which is in the final pre-opening stages, Donald Steel and Company of Chichester, England, have been awarded the contract to design the 27-hole villa development at Vila Nova, just east of the nation's capital, Lisbon.

With construction due to start in late 1999, the main design criteria is to produce a resort-style 18-hole course and an additional nine for client Companhia Imobiliaria da Herda da Aroeira.

Until now the site has been used for general agriculture. The existing natural undulations of the site and a number of specimen cork trees will form the basis of the design, within which 670 villas and hotel will be incorporated.

Back in England, Steel and Co. will see the completion of the second 18 at Brockett Hall in Hertfordshire. Named the Palmerston course, after the Victorian Prime Minister, it will provide a very different sort of course to the existing Melbourne layout designed by Peter Alliss and Clive Clark which abounds in water features in a parkland setting. The Palmerston has been routed through woodland.

Brockett Hall is owned by German businessman Dieter Klostermann, who is at the helm of CCA International group, an organization which currently boasts 30 golf clubs worldwide.

CCA reaches settlement with Sand River

HONG KONG — CCA Management Co. Ltd. was awarded damages and interest amounting to $1.5 million in a judgment in the High Court of the SAR in December 1998.

This decision followed a Dec. 10 hearing in which a judge ruled that CCA had not breached its management contract with Sand River Golf Club in Shenzhen, China. (See Jan./Feb. GCNI)

CCA has been granted a mareva injunction against Sand River and their associated company in Hong Kong which freezes all company bank accounts subject to payment of bills.

CCA has now petitioned for a winding up order against Sand River which is expected to be heard in this month.

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